

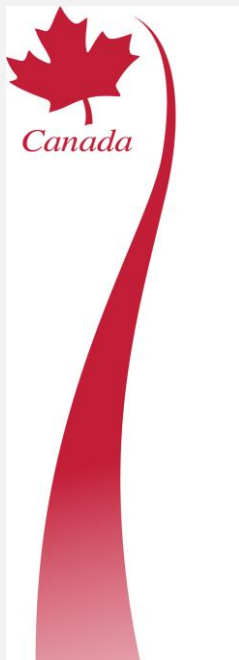
**2014/2015  
Canadian  
Research Priorities**

**1. Optimizing  
production  
performance**

**2. Managing  
market  
expectations (e.g.  
food safety,  
traceability,  
biosecurity,  
animal welfare,  
market access)**

**3. Improving  
business  
performance and  
profitability of  
Canadian flocks**

**4. Improving flock  
health**



**Canadian Research Priorities 2014-2015**

**Developed by the Research Working Group of the Sheep Value Chain Roundtable,  
November 2014**

**1. Optimizing production performance**

- Key performance indicators – cost management, productivity
  - Animal and business performance through improved nutrition
  - Perinatal mortality in sheep flocks
  - Milk production in the dairy sheep sector
  - Parasite management (eg. *T. ovis*, *Haemonchus*)
  - Management systems for highly productive ewes
  - Improved flock rations (by-product feeds, toxins, ergot, feed issues)
- Genetic selection
  - Optimal genetics / breed types and selection tools
  - Parasite / disease resistance
- Carcass quality / performance and supply chain practices
  - On-farm feeding to improve animal performance and carcass quality
  - Farm to market handling and transportation to reduce carcass damage
  - Processing improvements focused on carcass quality, quality assessment,

technology

**2. Managing market expectations (food safety, traceability, biosecurity, animal welfare,  
market access)**

- Improved animal welfare in sheep production
- Increased understanding of consumer sensory preferences and increased ability to meet them
- Lack of approved drugs for meat and dairy sheep
- Increased uptake by industry of existing tools for food safety, traceability biosecurity and animal welfare to ensure market access

**3. Improving business performance and profitability of Canadian flocks**

- Rising production cost management (feed, labour, energy, overhead, etc.)
- Flock models and production systems adapted to changing environmental and societal demand
- Business sustainability

**4. Improving flock health**

- Reducing neonatal lamb death loss
- Impact of chronic disease and parasites on flock productivity
- Improved understanding of the costs of and major reasons for early culling and death loss in ewe flocks
  - Lack of access to medications in use for disease management in the global lamb sector (vaccines, drugs, anthelmintics)